

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-08

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R 171950Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF COLOMBIAN AND U.S. FLOWER GROUPS

REF: A. MEXICO 4598 B. BOGOTA 4960 C. STATE 122959

1. WE APPRECIATE PROMPT RESPONSES AND USEFUL INFORMATION PROVIDED REFS A AND B. THE MEETING OF THE COLOMBIAN AND U.S. CUT FLOWER GROUPS IS NOW CONFIRMED FOR JUNE 16 AT 10 A.M. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COLOMBIAN GROUP WILL BE STAYING AT THE MARIA ISABEL SHERATON HOTEL AND HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING ROOM THERE. THE U.S. GROUP WILL BE STAYING AT THE CAMINO REAL.

2. THE U.S. GROUP WILL CONSISTS OF EIGHT INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HEADED BY BEN HALEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS. THE USDA
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OBSERVER IS J.H. STARKEY, DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE

OPERATIONS DIVISION, FAS. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A LIST OF THE COLOMBIAN PARTICIPANTS NOR FINAL CONFIRMATION THAT A GOC OBSERVER WOULD ATTEND.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH GROUPS DESIRE THAT THIS MEETING BE KEPT ON A LOW KEY BASIS AND NO SPECIAL SUPPORT FROM THE EMBASSY SHOULD BE REQUIRED. THERE IS, HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS MEETING AND IF TIME PERMITS KEY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. GROUP MAY WISH TO CALL ON APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICERS TO BRIEF THEM ON DEVELOPMENTS. STARKEY WILL CONTACT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE IN THIS REGARD.

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO NOTIFY GOM INFORMALLY RE THIS MEETING BASED ON FOREGOING IF SUCH ACTION STILL DEEMED APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER

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